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Ohio Mycological Bulletin No. 5

W. A. Kellerman, Ph.D., Ohio State University,

Columbus, Ohio, June 12, 1903.

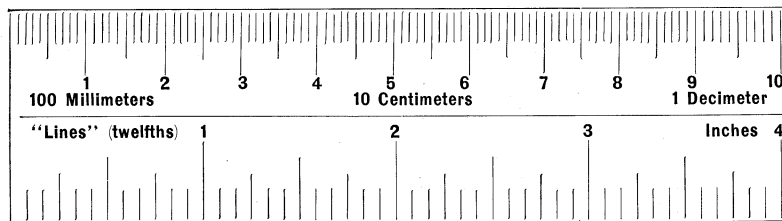
SPECIMENS — Many interesting Mushrooms have been brought to our notice and thanks are extended to those who have sent specimens. It must be said, by way of suggestion, that in some cases insufficient care is taken to get complete specimens. They ought never to be broken off leaving half the stem, nor even severed at the surface of the soil or substratum on which they grow; the underground or concealed portion should also be carefully secured. This often affords indispensable characters for correct identification, especially so when the presence or absence of a volva is to be determined. For study a large number of specimens are needed; they should illustrate all the characters that the species shows in its different stages of development of the fruit — fruit I say because the so-called Mushrooms and Toadstools are only the *fruiting* stage of the plant, the vegetative portion being the (whitish and mostly concealed) mass of threads called *my-ce-li-um*.



Fig. 23. Co-pri'-nus co-ma'-tus. Shaggy-mane. Edible. Belongs to the black-spored Gill-fungi. The gills and cap dissolve into an inky fluid at maturity. Various stages shown in the illustration. From photo by Prof. Schaffner.

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THE EXPERIMENT SUCCESSFUL — Notwithstanding protracted dry weather a fairly satisfactory Mushroom exhibition was realized May 22 as per previous notice. About sixty species were shown, perhaps half of them fresh; many of these being edible kinds. With the numerous class charts and colored plates used in the regular college work, an exhibit was made that seemed to be very satisfactory to the large crowd of visitors. Repetition when weather is not adverse may be expected.



Scale for convenient measurement.

PUFF-BALL FAMILY — The name for this group is *Ly-co-per-da'-ce-ae*; which is formed from *Ly-co-per'-don*, the name of one of the genera. Puff-balls are familiar objects, and numerous species are to be found in every locality. They are edible when young and fresh, though only the larger kinds would be used. Fig. 23 shows the Giant Puff-Ball growing in a grassy plot, from a photograph taken by Prof. Schaffner. The myriads of spores escape as a cloud when the plant is ready to be stepped on. When slicing the peeled specimen for table use the flesh should be white; if dark or changing from the white color it must be discarded.



Fig. 24. Bo-vis'-ta gi-gan-te'-a. Giant Puff-ball. (By various authors it is also called *Ly-co-per'-don*, or *Cal-va'-ti-a*.) Very large, 8 or 10 to even 20 inches in diameter, weighing several pounds, depressed-globose, white or whitish, becoming discolored with age. Edible when young.

A NOTE FOR STUDENTS — Space precludes the possibility of giving here directions for exhaustive study of the fleshy fungi (A-gar-i-că-ce-ae); therefore a separate slip has been prepared for systematic study and record of the characters of these plants. A package stapled to a stiff back for convenient field use will be sent to those who furnish address, with five cents, or two two-cent stamps. A sample for inspection may be obtained upon request accompanied by a 1-cent stamp.

A GOOD PLACE FOR MUSHROOMS — At Sandusky, Ohio, there is a lot, several acres in extent, the former site of a cooperage plant, largely recovered from Sandusky Bay by filling up with saw-dust and lumber-waste such as small pieces of slabs, sticks and bark. This wooden soil is several feet thick and all the time moist below the surface. Therefore it is an excellent place for the plants in which we are interested. Wm. H. Spencer tells me that last year he collected here "forty-three varieties, mostly Agaricaceae, one Clavariaceae, two Phallaceae, several Lycoperdaceae and Polyporaceae."

Those are fortunate who have such a variety of favorable localities as in the region of Sandusky. Cedar Point is not to be forgotten in this connection. It is a narrow, wooded sand-spit about seven miles long, the famous pleasure resort located near the northwest end. Southeast from this place, one mile, is located the fine Lake Laboratory, just completed, where a summer school in Botany (and Zoology) is carried on by the Ohio State University. It may not be amiss to state that courses of instruction in Mushrooms and other groups of plants are this season offered to the choice of everybody, the work beginning June 29th and continuing six weeks. Anyone interested should write to the Ohio State University for the Circular which gives details of this Biological Laboratory, the courses of study, the charge for tuition, etc.

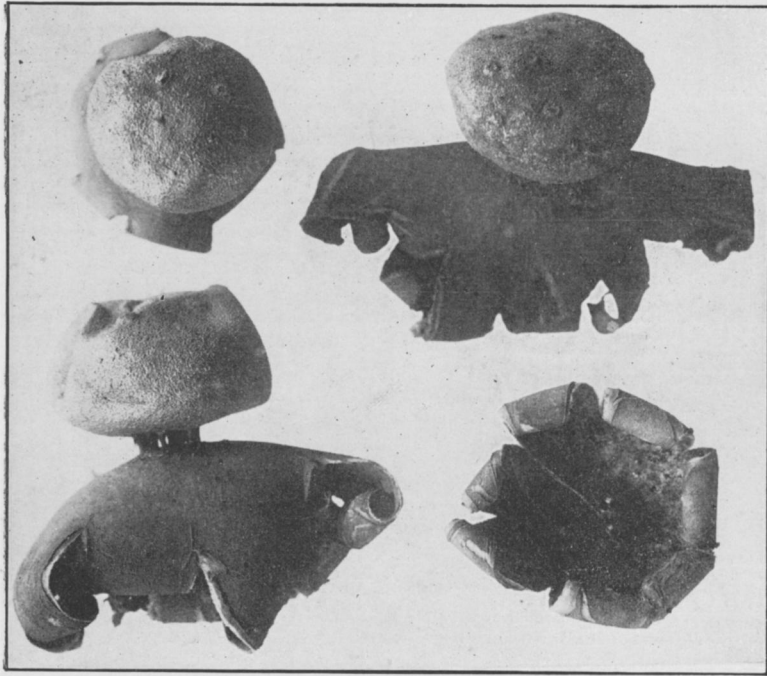


Fig. 25. Myr-i-o-sto'-ma col-i-for'-mis. Pepper-box Earth-star. Differs from the common Earth-star (Ge-as'-ter) in having several openings through the upper portion of the inner wall for the escape of the spores. Rarer than the Geasters; the latter have but one mouth at apex. (Greek words—*Myrioi* means many, and *stoma* signifies mouth.)

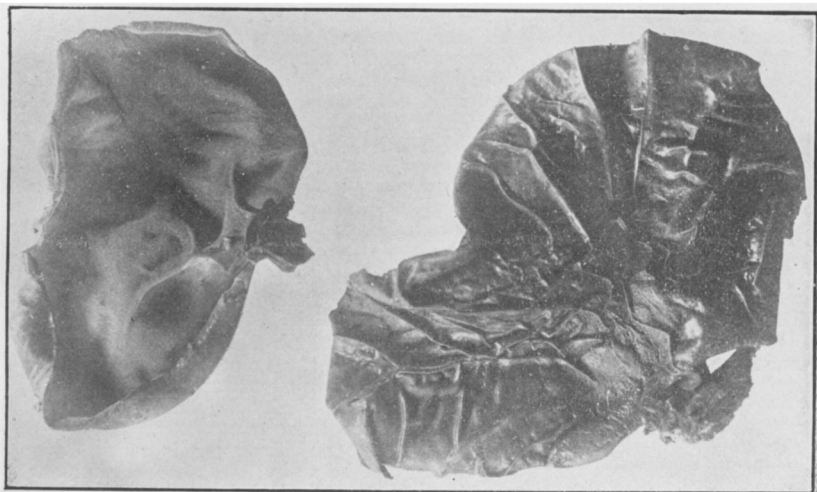


Fig. 26. Hir-ne-o'-la au-ric'-u-la-ju'-dae. Jew's Ear. Belongs to the Trembling Fungi, or *Tre-mel-la'-ce-ae*, so-called because of their gelatinous consistency. They shrivel when dry, reviving when moistened. The Jew's Ear is rather common, brown or blackish, fuzzy-hairy, but not so tender and palatable as several other species of this group.

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